

FINAL Magnuson Park Advisory Committee Minutes
Arena Sports Conference Room
July 11, 2013 from 6 – 7:30 PM

Attending: MPAC Members: Julianna Ross, Ed Bronsdon, Peter Zimmerman, Gail Chiarello, Morgan Collins, Tom Kelly, Diana Kincaid,, Rusty Williams, Colby Bradley (Solid Ground), Aaron Hoad, Herb Curl. Absent: Loren Hill, Nancy Bolin

Parks staff: Isabel Hamilton. Guests: Margaret Thouless (Neighborhoods alternate), Terry Buchanan (Cyclocross)

Chair Julianna Ross called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Announcements from the Chair:

- Friends of Sand Point Historic District, also known as FOMP, held a sold-out fund-raiser for Historic Seattle, consisting of a 2-hour tour through the park on Saturday, June 29th, beginning at the Brig, and ending at the North Shore Recreation Area. Tour leaders were Lynn Ferguson, Julianna Ross, and Captain Ron Miller.
- Funding for Building 9 from the WA State legislation: \$14M has been set aside, of which \$4M will go to the University of Washington. Hopefully the remaining \$10M plus historic tax credits, plus rent, will be sufficient to attract a developer to renovate the building. There may be 200 units in the building. The WA Department of Commerce will begin work once the University signs off on its interest.
- Controls and Incentives for Magnuson Park's Historic District sailed through the Landmarks Board. All three "owners" of the property signed off on the document. The matter now goes before City Council. Infill issues remain; there is nothing in the Controls and Incentives document which would prevent a McDonald's from locating in the park.
- MPAC Website Update. The City can't post MPAC Minutes because of a perceived "liability" issue. The Chair has found a commercial webmaster who will maintain the site for \$50/year. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to employ this service, and the motion passed.

Public Comment:

Tom Kelly said that the Lakeshore Drive re-do was very nice, and work is continuing on the Headwaters Project which will create a new wetland at NE 65th Street and Sportsfield Drive.

Margaret Thouless asked if WA's Department of Commerce still intended to convene a Citizens Committee to provide input on the development of Building 9. Julianna responded, yes, after title passes from the University of Washington to the Department of Commerce

Diana Kincaid alerted the group to the public meetings of the Parks Legacy Committee. Upcoming meeting dates are July 24, August _____. She commented that Parks' funding is problematic and spoke of the aging tree canopy.

Ed Bronsdon reminded attendees that the 50-member University Sunrise Service Club was looking for projects.

Obliteride: Isabel Hamilton announced the upcoming Obliteride bike race fundraiser, since Jeannine could not be present. [NOTE Who is Jeannine?] It is scheduled for the weekend of August 10-11 and will include a beer and wine garden. Pete Zimmerman expressed concern about parking on NE 62nd Street. The magnitude of the Obliteride attendees would take parking away from residents. Diana Kincaid commented on heat exhaustion. Ed Bronsdon mentioned that for special events, the NOAA Road can be opened with sufficient advance notice. Terry Buchanan said it was easy to get the road

opened but we would have to “pull a permit” and give an estimate of the expected capacity. Julianna Ross said she would forward these questions to Jeannine.

Approval of the June Minutes. These were approved.

Cyclocross: Terry Buchanan of Cyclocross talked about the event scheduled for the third Sunday of October. Michelle Atkinson of the Parks Department was the primary contact person. Tom Kelly commented that 2012 corrected most of the 2011 problems. “There were only a few problems, such as riders or a team practicing at race speed during the previous week on the north cross park trail over Kite Hill, and potential for bike/pedestrian conflicts or collisions at a couple of places during the race where there wasn’t warning or barricading. Most pedestrians would probably stay safe on those, but risk appeared higher than for other portions of the course. One section was along the cross park trail between Lake Shore Drive and the Sports Meadow rest room and the other was on the north cross park trail section ascending from the sports meadow to near the crest of Kite Hill. Tom also suggested it would be helpful to have signage posted the weekend before so as to give park users who regularly use course areas advance notice. Terry responded that Michelle has taken ownership of the signage issue. Chair Julianna Ross thanked Tom Kelly for following up and noted that there had been 1100 riders at Cyclocross last fall.

Facilities Updates

Building 18: 50% of the documents are ready, but they are still under review. The owls and the owlets get to stay. The building will be shored up pending further rehabbing. There will be a permit review.

Building 11 (Isabel Hamilton): The building will be handed over in August. Parks is still in negotiation with various tenants, including Waldorf School (really close), Sail Sand Point, Cascade Bicycle (really close), and PORCH. Diana Kincaid asked why an RFP process had not been followed for the commercial tenants. The answer was that PORCH approached the Parks Department. Parks is also looking for a restaurant to occupy the site. Isabel said that Eric Friedli and Christopher Williams were the “deciders” but they take direction from the Central Budget Office (Jeff Mumm) who is insisting on a 3% per year rent increase, related to the costs of the debt service. Leases are for no more than five years, but there can be add-ons. Rusty Williams commented that there was a problem in that the spaces had not been marketed publicly; there should have been an RFP or a mortgage broker. Isabel commented that brokers approached the Parks Department. Moreover the building is not easy to market commercially because of lack of traffic, lack of visibility, and difficult access

Building 30 (Isabel Hamilton): There have been some delays; Parks has had to install a new furnace. The offices and Earth Corps space should be ready in August. Julianna mentioned there would be a Gala Opening on October 12th with tickets at \$150.

Tennis Center (Ed Bronsdon): Springfield Drive access line by the Tennis Center. Kevin Bergsrud had no answer. [Ed—can you clarify?]

Walking Trail Discussion (Diana Kincaid): Tom Kelly provided a map of the walking trail which will be a wide, more open pathway. Diana commented Magnuson should be a great walking park and also safe for women, which meant, nothing on the ground higher than 3 feet, with a sight line up to 8 feet. She envisioned one nice big loop, with benches. Julianna Ross commented that there are pieces of a loop trail and they need to be connected, and recommended adding mileage markers. She proposed MPAC take this on with a goal of completing the walking trail by the end of 2014. She suggested the August 14th MPAC meeting be a walking tour of the Park, led by Tom Kelly. Tom said “all of it is here now”—the beach promenade, the Cross-Park trail; it’s just a question of pulling it together with signage.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:12PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Chiarello
Secretary